

ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Summary of Minutes
October 26, 2004

New Public Safety Commission Members Present:

Chairman Dennis Garrett, Director, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Ray Allen, Assistant Fire Chief, City of Tucson Fire Department
Amy Brooks, Captain, Apache Junction Fire Department
Hal Collett, Sheriff, Arizona Sheriffs Association
Gordon Gartner, Chief, Payson Police Department
Jan Hauk, President, Arizona Fire Districts Association
Kermit Miller, Assistant Chief, representing Chief Richard Miranda, Tucson Police
Kimberly Spykes, Officer, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Lou Trammell, Deputy Director, Division of Emergency Management
Dan Wills, Chief, Sedona Fire Department
Kenneth Witkowski, Chief, Gila River Indian Community Police Department
Dewayne Woodie, Captain, Ganado Fire District/EMS
Mike Worrell, Captain, Phoenix Fire Department

PSCC Support Office Attendees:

Lt. Colonel David Felix, Assistant Director, Criminal Justice Support Division
Curt Knight, Executive Director, Public Safety Communications Commission
Deidra Strickland, Administrative Services Officer, Public Safety Communications Commission

New Public Safety Commission Members Absent:

Kathleen Paleski, Commander, Northern Arizona University Police Department
Danny Sharp, Chief, Oro Valley Police Department

Other Attendees:

John Blackburn Jr., Director, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Chuck Brotherton, Maricopa County Wireless Systems
Larry Consalvos, IXP Corporation
Jesse Cooper, Phoenix Police Department
Milan Dobras, City of Mesa
Joe Gibson, Communications Center Manager, Southwest Ambulance
Gerry Hardt, Program Manager, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Jeff Harris, Network Analyst, Maricopa County Wireless Systems, MCSO
Karl Hartmetz, La Paz County
Eric Landau, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Jack Lane, Lieutenant/Legislative Liaison, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Greg Lopez, City of Yuma
John Maldonado, Deputy Chief, Phoenix Fire Department
Bret Mihlbauer, Motorola
Chris Nadeau, Communications Manager, Goodyear Police Department
Debbie Overton, Director of Telecommunications Tech., MCSO

Michael Paz

Jim Perry, Administrator, City of Tucson

Steve Powles, Telecommunications Engineer, Arizona Department of Public Safety

Paul Punske, Motorola, Inc.

Blair D.M. Quaggan, Regional Manager, Motorola

Georgene Ramming, CJSJ Chief of Staff, Arizona Department of Public Safety

James Ryan, Government Information Technology Agency

Larry Sayers, Radio Communications Manager, Pima County

Scott Tillman, Telecommunications Engineer, Arizona Department of Public Safety

Jay Vargo, Communications Officer, Arizona Division of Emergency Management

Sandy Wagner, Motorola

Bill Washington, Captain, Tucson Police Department

Paul Wilson, Captain, Pima County Sheriff's Department

Call to Order

Dennis Garrett opened the meeting at 1:05 pm. Roll call and introductions of the attendees took place.

Dennis Garrett provided comments on how the Commission was formed. DPS, as well as public safety agencies throughout the state have been very concerned about the level of our communications systems. Approximately five years ago, DPS embarked upon creating a committee to try and develop some interest in the state so the public safety community would get together and try to come up with a plan to improve our communications systems; keeping in mind there are a lot of things going on in the national level we have no control over. These concerns will effect all our communications unless we meet certain requirements. Most of our systems do not comply with any of the standards that will be going into place in the next few years, with the exception of Phoenix and maybe Tucson and Pima County depending on their new system. This was the motivation behind this committee. About four years ago, concerns were brought forth to the Legislature, not just concerns for the state but for many of the counties, local jurisdictions, and the tribes. At that time, the state had no funds but the committee continued to meet. During this last legislative session, the economy improved a little and as a result of several key legislators efforts they came up with a Bill during the last minute of the session. A total of five million dollars was appropriated to help fund and get started in putting together a realistic plan on how to solve the communications problem for the state, county, and local jurisdictions. The purpose of this Commission is to advise us on how to move forward.

Dennis Garrett mentioned David Felix has been an integral player of this committee from the beginning. He is responsible for the Criminal Justice Support Division, Telecommunications Bureau, and all of the employees and efforts reside in his Division. David Felix has been a real leader, not only for the State but on a national level in this area. As a result of the Legislature, a team was created to nationally advertise for a person to head the effort. Curt Knight was selected as the Executive Director, and he is now in the process of putting together his team of professionals to put a plan in place that will ultimately get us to where we want to go with a modern twenty-first century communication system for the whole state to help solve some of the current interoperability problems.

Minutes

Minutes from June 29, 2004, will remain. Minutes were tabled due to the recent newly appointed members to the Public Safety Communications Commission.

PSCC History/Background

David Felix provided a brief background on the PSCC history five years ago and mentioned as a result of recently passed legislation, the Governor appointed the new members by statute. David Felix thanked the members that volunteered and served on the original committee and wished to thank them personally and professionally for the tremendous amount of work they did, as well as diligently attending past meetings and representing their agencies well. He thanked them for doing the foundation work and accomplishing what PSCC is today.

The goal is to educate the newly appointed members and use appropriated funds to move the commission in the right direction. The new Commission will continue to seek funding to have some type of an overlay system that will connect these networks together to communicate with each other over voice and data, regardless of the event and location around the state. After this meeting today, the PSCC will transition to the newly appointed Executive Director Curt Knight to facilitate future meetings.

David Felix formally introduced and welcomed Curt Knight. He reported the Governor's office established a selection committee to conduct the interviews for the Executive Director position. The selection committee consisted of Director Frank Navarrette, Office of Homeland Security; Mr. Tim Hill, Legislative Liaison for the Professional Firefighters Association, Phoenix Fire Department; and Assistant Director David Felix, DPS. David Felix stated Telecommunications and Engineering peers were very supportive of the work Curt Knight has done.

Curt Knight provided a brief PSCC history/background. He provided and discussed documents concerning the committee and new Commission up to this point. Curt Knight anticipates everyone will continue to share information and wants to continue to develop a consensus among all public safety groups.

This meeting is considered the first meeting of the Arizona Public Safety Communications Commission. Official notice of this public and future meetings will be posted in the lobby at the State Capitol at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Notice will also be posted on the DPS website. This Commission is now established in statute under Senate Bill 1412. Commissioners will be appointed by the Governor and shall serve three-year terms. Commissioners representing a professional organization should take into consideration constituents they represent outside of their agency to represent them on this Commission as well.

Definition of Interoperability

There are plenty of definitions for "interoperability." Curt Knight asked members of the Commission to key in on an Arizona definition and decide what it is the Commission is trying to accomplish to focus on that. "Are we looking for interoperability with or without infrastructure?" These are two broad areas we need to focus on. Is the ultimate goal not to require infrastructure and have interoperability face-to-face? Or, is the ultimate goal to always require infrastructure? Should we expect interoperability in what is known as a common air

interface just between radio and radio, regardless of where we are? This should be addressed and discussed based on Arizona needs.

PSCC Support Office Activities

Curt Knight introduced Dee Strickland as the Administrative Services Officer for PSCC. The intent is to hire half the staff of nine by January 2005. The expectation is to have a job description approved by the Merit System Council at the November meeting and have additional technical staff on board.

The PSCC has located leased space and the new main office telephone number is 602-271-7400. A fax number was also provided, 602-271-7363.

Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)

The SIEC was established as a means to communicate and involve interoperability issues with first responders. The FCC suggested a structure similar to a statewide interoperability executive committee be established in each state. The subcommittee was appointed by the PSCC and is jointly co-chaired by John Maldonado, Phoenix Fire, and Paul Wilson, Pima County. Dan Wills, Sedona Fire, provided a brief update on the SIEC activities. He also indicated three groups are formed under the SIEC subcommittee: Operational, Technical, and Administrative. SIEC meetings will be held the morning prior to PSCC meetings, and the SIEC will provide a report to the new Commission members during the PSCC meetings.

During the last SIEC meeting, a draft dialogue of policies and procedures were put together. A tremendous amount of work is going on. The subcommittee is still looking for participation, and looking to secure representation from not only the regions, but from police, fire, EMS, etc.

Future Direction

The RFP needs assessment done by Macro was briefly discussed. The Commission was asked to reference the five emergency response regions. An executive summary of the Macro report was provided. Curt Knight asked the Commission to review the Macro report and consider possible future directions for Arizona.

Curt Knight mentioned the two million dollars allocated will revert if not expended by July 2005. There is one million dollars that needs to be consumed towards the PSCC mission, e.g., conducting studies, consultant work, etc. It is an aggressive timeline to try and get an RFP, assign, and accomplish the work between now and June. Some thoughts brought forward: 1) Are there pilot projects in place around the state that might be taking the direction the Commission approves of which we can try and foster? Should we look for those opportunities? 2) Should we fund the “quick wins” that would show our commitment towards the direction this funding was allocated for? There is some debate concerning the funding and whether it can be used to foster a pilot project and/or system already in place. These are some things that have been brought up and discussions need to continue.

Two thoughts brought up were the coordination with Homeland Security efforts on the ACU 1000 (distributing ACU 1000's throughout the five regions). How close should these efforts be coordinated through this Commission to not duplicate any program efforts? It was mentioned

Homeland Security and DEM are talking about conducting interoperability studies of their own. Curt Knight clarified prior to the Commission the PSCC committee was based on long-term focus, rather than short-term solutions. Since then, Homeland Security and DEM have stepped up trying to find interim/short-term solutions, and members of this committee (as well as DPS staff) have participated in reasonable short-term/interim solutions that hopefully are not wasted efforts working towards long-term solutions. There is constant communication among the public safety groups.

Curt Knight will keep you up-to-date on activities in adjacent states or other states in the nation, in trying to follow some of the past practices that have been learned, or not follow practices of those that had problems.

Administrative Issues

- Part of the reporting requirements is to provide JLBC with an activity report every quarter. A copy of the report will be sent to the Commission members electronically.
- Part of the direction for the Commission is to consult with Government Information Technology Agency (GITA) for input. GITA has oversight responsibility of technology projects and they need to be involved in the process. GITA has been involved up to this point. Curt Knight did contact Director Chris Cumiskey.
- David Felix reminded members of the Commission to complete and return documents that were provided and requested by the Governor's office. These documents have a short turnaround time and are necessary to officially appoint new Commission members.
- The legislation has also allowed the ability for travel reimbursement costs of the Commission members. Dee Strickland provided the information and forms necessary. Reimbursement costs will be at the DPS rates. Any questions should be directed to Dee Strickland.
- Per statute, the PSCC shall meet every quarter. A discussion was held on the several date options and locations to hold PSCC meetings.

Open Discussion / Comments

Sheriff Collett indicated they are hoping to improve communications in rural areas. Several rural counties still have communication gaps to the point they cannot communicate with themselves. He would like to see the lack of communication in rural areas addressed and/or improved upon.

The city and county of Yuma have stepped into a more common system and they are trying to reach out to communities around them. Flagstaff and Coconino County have been very progressive in that area. Yavapai County and Verde Valley fire districts and jurisdictions are starting to come together as far as a lot of sharing and use of common systems. Pima County and Tucson have a \$92 million dollar bond. These areas are all in a position where they have a fair amount of funding towards their final mission. Is this something the Commission can help foster or help deploy to the next level? Everyone is asked to stay in contact. There are interim solutions and a fair amount of funding that can be leveraged together.

Curt Knight reported on the federal initiative going on in the state: “IWN (Integrated Wireless Network).” IWN is a federal initiative primarily for Homeland Security (used to be Treasury and Justice). There is some activity along the international border where it’s being deployed. IWN is interested in coming in to help local jurisdictions connect to them when deemed necessary. This pilot project is also going on in Phoenix. Homeland Defense is helping with this pilot project to essentially prove the interoperability solution between a federal network and a modern state and local network. Another segment of IWN has also approached DPS about co-locating a network operation center with the idea two hubs of two major networks are in physical proximity to each other to make it easier in the future.

Curt Knight made a comment the PSCC will not be able to do all these projects in the short time frame and with the small amount of money. And if you recognize other projects, bring them forward for discussion by the Commission.

David Felix indicated new PSCC members need to become familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the Commission in the legislation, as well as become familiar with their budget, and ask questions if necessary. The Legislature has given this commission a very broad area to work. Take advantage of the funding. If there is opportunity to co-exist on some of these projects, it is fine. There is some flexibility to get the job done. Ultimately, we need to move in a direction towards this larger project. PSCC needs to track some of those things Homeland Security is doing. Some of the legislators in place today are very action oriented. The PSCC needs to transition to that point and these are things that will be proposed. Any suggestions on how to present things during Commission meetings should be communicated to Curt Knight. It will be a task for Curt Knight and his staff to stay on track of these opportunities.

The Safecom website has a tremendous amount of information on things going on around the country and can be used a resource. There is a link to the Safecom website from the DPS website.

Curt Knight reported there is a PSCC link on the DPS website. He requested feedback from the Commission members concerning how much personal information to publish.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 11, 2005.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.